

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-20 NSC-07

SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-03 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PRS-01 USIE-00 PA-04 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1760

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 7178

FOLNG SENT NEW DELHI FM CALCUTTA DTD MAY 30

QUOTE: CALCUTTA 1049

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, CASC, IN

SUBJECT : HARCOS/FLETCHER: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING,
CONSULAR ACCESS

REF : A. PICKERING/SCHNEIDER TELECON MAY 30

B. STATE 112202

1. IN ADDITION TO OUR POINT ABOUT VIOLATING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE CONSULAR RELATIONSHIP WITH HARCOS AND FLETCHER WITH WHATEVER LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS THAT MAY HAVE, WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO CONSIDER ONE ADDITIONAL ELEMENT.

2. WE FEEL THAT IF WE SERIOUSLY WANT TO PURSUE THE CONSULAR ACCESS QUESTION WITH THE INDIANS (BOTH GOI AND GOWB) WE MUST MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE MEETINGS. IF WE ASSUME THE ROLE OF A CONDUIT TO THE PRESS FOR HARCOS AND FLETCHER (WHICH WE GATHER TO BE THE THRUST OF THE LAST QUESTION AND ANSWER IN REF B), THEN WE HAVE NO MORAL CLAIM ON THE INDIANS FOR OUR ACCESS HERE. WE WOULD STILL HAVE THE LEGAL CLAIM BUT THAT WILL
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BE FINESSED BY THE INDIANS (OUR APPLICATIONS WILL BE REFERRED

TO THE COURTS OR TO THE GOI HIGHER COUNCILS NEVER TO BE HEARD
OF AGAIN). WE BELIEVE PRESS QUESTIONS ON THE HARCOS AND FLETHCER
POSITION SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THEIR LAWYERS BY THE DEP-
PARTMENT SPOKESMAN.

3. ANOTHER FACTOR TO CONSIDER IS WHETHER A FORTHCOMING DEPART-
MENTAL RESPONSE TO LAST QUESTION MIGHT NOT JETTISON OUR CHANCES
OF GETTING ACCESS TO THE IN CAMERA TRIAL (REF SCHNEIDER/TEJA
CONVERSATION IN NEW DELHI 7029).
PICKERING UNQUOTE MOYNIHAN

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